Supplemental Views of Mr. Brown

September 25, 1998

Mr. Chairman,

I laud Congressman Ehlers for his hard work in tackling the challenging task laid out by the Speaker, and I believe the report will mark the commencement of a great debate on the future of our Nation's science policy. However, I cannot agree to sign onto this report because it does not sufficiently probe the depth of the problems facing our scientific enterprise. Any new policy should adhere to three principles which require more study. First, it should reflect our understanding of the process of creativity and innovation. Second, it should articulate the public's interest in supporting science—the goals and values the public should expect of the scientific enterprise. Finally, a new science policy should point towards decision-making tools for better investment choices. I look forward to participating vigorously in that evolving dialogue as an advocate for these principles. A fuller discussion of these views can be found at our web site, http://www.house.gov/science.democrats/welcome.htm.

George E. Brown, Jr. Ranking Member